

SCANG commander promoted to general

The commander of the 169th Fighter Wing was promoted to brigadier general Aug. 7 at the base dining facility. Congratulations Brig. Gen. Scott Williams.

Senior leaders in attendance included Maj. Gen. Robin Rand, who served with Williams at Osan AB, Korea, Maj. Gen. Stanhope Spears, adjutant general of South Carolina, Brig. Gen. Lester Eisner, deputy adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Keith Coln, former SCANG commander, other South Carolina National Guard generals and several retired SCANG general officers.

“Dynamic times require dynamic leaders and Spade (Brig. Gen. Williams) has clearly demonstrated he is a dynamic and capable leader,” Eisner said.

He thanked his wife and family for their support, and joked, “Never thought I’d see this day.” Williams also expressed his pride in the wing’s accomplishments and said he will always be proud to be a Swamp Fox.



(Photo by SMSgt. Ed Snyder, 169th FW/PA)

Brig. Gen. Scott Williams is pinned by his wife Diana, son Luke, and daughters Anna and Grace, with assistance from CMSgt. Tim Treaster.

F-35s will have to wait...

Following the July 29 Department of the Air Force announcement citing Arizona, Florida, Utah and Vermont as the initial recipients of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, McEntire and Shaw leadership remain confident about future basing decisions.

“We would prefer to be on the list of initial bases to receive the F-35,” said Brig. Gen. Scott Williams, the 169th Fighter Wing commander. “But we’re confident F-35s will be on the ramp at McEntire Joint National Guard Base in the coming years.”

Maj. Gen. Stanhope Spears, The Adjutant General, said the fact the 169th Fighter Wing has the newest model F-16s in service might have been a determining factor in the base selection process.

He said, “You are the premier SEAD/DEAD fighter wing in the Air Force. As

missions continue overseas and new threats arise, there is no doubt our nation needs you and your capabilities.”

With no specific date for the next round of basing announcements, Williams said this decision has no impact on the important role McEntire has in the Air Force.

“Take a look around and see all of the construction on base, the standing up of Air Sovereignty Alert mission and our highly successful Active Association program,” said Williams. “Where else in the Air Force do you get more ‘bang for your buck’ other than at McEntire.”

For more of the commander’s commentary on the F-35 basing decision, see Page 2.

(Story by Capt. Cindi King, 169th FW/PA)

Return of AEF

At press time the final group of McEntire Airmen is scheduled to return home after completing their tour at Joint Base Balad supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.



(Photo by TSgt. Caycee Cook, 169th FW/PA)

F-16s takes off from Joint Base Balad en route to McEntire, Aug. 22, 2010.

Commander's Corner



by
Brig. Gen. Scott Williams
169th Fighter Wing Commander



As you know, the USAF recently announced its initial "F-35 Preferred Basing List" to Congress, and McEntire was not one of the four initial bases chosen. As mentioned on Page 1, the four locations selected were Luke AFB, Eglin AFB, Hill AFB and Burlington IAP, VT ANG. You've probably asked yourself (and many of you have asked me personally) ... what does this mean for us and our future.

Fortunately for the 169th Fighter Wing, we have the newest and most capable F-16s (Block 52s) in the USAF inventory, so we will continue to be an elite fighting force.

Our F-16s are about half-way through their service life. Unlike some Air Guard bases that own F-16s near the end of their service life, ours can easily make it through the next round of F-35 basing.

The Air Force's criteria and the site survey results found McEntire to be one of the best places to put F-35s. However, the AF had concerns about maintaining the unique war fighting capability (SEAD and DEAD) that F-16s from McEntire and Shaw bring to the fight while the F-35 system is maturing.

We're told the first group of F-35s will not have the key technologies later model F-35s will have to enable a robust S/DEAD capability. As most of you remember, there were significant improvements in capability from the early Block 5 F-16A (1970s technology) to the current Block 52 F16CJ. The same was true for the F-22. Likewise, the F-35A's initial operational capabilities will be limited when compared to follow-on models (especially when it comes to S/DEAD capability).

For now, McEntire is more valuable to the Air Force if it continues providing the expertise and experience as a S/DEAD wing that we're famous for.

But, yes, McEntire will go back into consideration for follow-on rounds of F-35 basing deliberations. And I'm convinced we will see F-35s on our ramp eventually (when their technology allows us to continue our S/DEAD excellence).

Though we would have preferred to be on the list of initial bases to receive the F-35, that line of thinking is more of an emotional desire than an objective argument. The SCANG has a long-standing tradition as a premier flying unit, flying the Air Force's most capable fighter aircraft. Time and time again, we have answered the nation's call in war and peacetime. By every measure of merit and by all objective criterion, no Air Guard base and no Air Guard wing equals what you deliver for the Guard, the Air Force, the DoD and the American taxpayer.

When it comes to performance, McEntire's Airmen should be very proud of their contributions to the Air Guard and the USAF. Who did the Air Guard call on to help other units pass their Phase 1 and Phase 2 ORIs? Who did AFCENT call when it needed a winner in the Falcon Air Meet in Jordan? Who did the Air Force call when it needed a place to upgrade young F-16 pilots from USAFE, PACAF and ACC during very high OPSTEMPO periods? And what other Air Guard fighter wing provides a 120-day, 12-ship AEF ... cycle after cycle?

The 169th FW with its Active Association provides all this and more. We deliver the most bang-for-the-buck in the Guard or Reserve.

If you look around McEntire, you'll see significant infrastructure investments: runway modernizations, taxiway expansions and renovations, ramp improvements, the migration of the ASA mission from Shaw and a host of other construction projects that will recapitalize McEntire as a long term Joint National Guard Base.

Just four bases were selected for the F-35 in this round. Those not selected will be reconsidered for the next batch.

In the meantime, we'll keep flying our very capable F-16s. And you can trust our future is very bright, and the Swamp Foxes are here to stay!

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Official Mission Statement of the 169th Fighter Wing: To provide a trained and equipped citizen fighting force that exceeds the capability of any Guard, Reserve, or active-duty Air Force unit in the protection and defense of state and nation; to maintain the capability for worldwide deployment of combat-ready assets to meet contingency and general war requirements; to employ conventional munitions in close-air-support, interdiction, offensive counter-air, defensive counter attack, suppression of enemy air defenses and special capability AGM-65 Maverick missiles; to provide world-class units that are recognized as being the best of the best when directed by the governor to preserve and protect the life, property, peace and public safety of the citizens of South Carolina.

Submission of SCANG News material: Articles and photography are welcome and should be submitted prior to the deadline (see below). E-mail submissions to 169FW.PA.SCANGNews@ang.af.mil.

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Deadline for the October issue is Sept. 12



Chief's Concerns

Chief Master Sergeant Russ Oswald, 169th AMXS

One can visit any of the different squadrons on McEntire on any given date or time and find some of our fellow Guardsmen going above and beyond the call of duty while performing their assigned duties. Whether they are security forces checking identification at the gates, an avionics specialist working a flight control write-up or a crew chief performing pre-flight checks on an assigned aircraft, they excel at their jobs. These individuals are never content unless they feel they have given 100 percent of their effort to completing a task. They do not do this to show off or draw attention to themselves but for their own satisfaction in knowing they have given a task their best effort. Far too often, these individuals go about doing their jobs and do not receive the recognition they deserve.

One means we have to recognize the superior work these individuals perform is to nominate them for the Outstanding Airman of the Year award. This annual award recognizes individuals in the Airman, Non-Commissioned Officer and Senior Non-Commissioned Officer categories who are recognized by their supervisors or peers as outstanding airmen.

We also recognize the value and dedication of our members' families. The families of our members are the true heroes behind the scenes. With their continued support, our

members are able to perform their military duties and deploy whenever and wherever needed. Many wives, husbands, children and other family members are active in the Family Support Group. They dedicate their time and effort to assist with family oriented base functions.

The SCANG Family of the Year award is one way we can and do recognize the contributions of our McEntire families to the overall mission.

I recently completed the task of compiling the names of nominees from the 169th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron for submittal as Airman of the Year, NCO of the Year, Senior NCO of the Year and Family of the Year. I had excellent assistance and valuable input from the Weapons, Flight Line and Avionics sections on the individuals they nominated for these awards.

As I worked through the paperwork and completed the nomination forms, the one thing I noticed about all the nomination letters was the respect and admiration these individuals receive from their co-workers. The comments from their fellow Airmen and supervisors attest to their strengths and qualities. They also recognize these Airmen in their nominations as leaders who share their technical knowledge and skills with others to complete the mission at hand.

All of this leads up to the reputation McEn-



tire has gained over the years. We are known throughout the Air Force and other Guard units as the ones to go to for advice. When we surpass expectations during an ORI, win a competition or excel in other ways, our members constantly are asked how we do it.

There is not a simple answer to this question. However, after seeing the quality, professionalism and dedication of our nominees in all the categories, a portion of the answer has to be our people. They are the ones who make things happen, mentor our new airmen and continue the tradition of the 169th being known as the "Premier Fighter Squadron."



Recruiting & Retention

Military Personnel Summary

Strength

Officers:

Authorized	143
Assigned	133
Percent Manned	93.0%

Enlisted:

Authorized	1198
Assigned	1249
Percent Manned	104.3%

Total:

Authorized	1341
Assigned	1382
Percent Manned	103.1%

(as of August 25, 2010)

Recruiting/Retention

Gains:

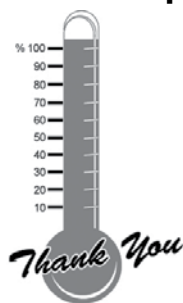
	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Prior	6	63
Non-Prior	2	98
Total	8	161

Losses:

ETS	1	14
Discharge	0	19
Medical	0	1
Resignation	0	7
Retirement	3	26
Transfer	2	25
Other	0	1
Total	6	93

Net Gain/Loss	+2	+68
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Recruiting Progress We're at 103.1 percent!



We must maintain 100% strength through 2010!
Recruit & Retain!

There are many positions open for immediate recruiting...

Munitions, Weapons, Crew Chiefs, Life Support, CE, Security Forces and more



For Your Information...

Free childcare available

Free childcare for children 6 weeks to 12 years is available at Fort Jackson's Child Development Center for all Guard and active duty members for posted drill dates. The CDC is located in base housing next to the Fort Jackson Commissary. Hours of operation are 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, contact Terry DeLille, (803) 647-8089 or email her at carolyn.delille@ang.af.mil.

Commander's Action Line

Have a question, concern or problem? Leave a message on the Commander's Action Line. If requested, a member of the Commander's staff will respond with a resolution. Call (803) 647-8899.

Update personal information

Have you recently had a change in status? Did you reenlist, get promoted, married or divorced, move into a new home/apartment, have an addition or reduction to your household or send a child off to college? This is a reminder to review your personnel military records and submit the required supporting documentation to correct or update your personnel data. You can review and update some of your personal data online using virtual Military Personnel Flight or contact your servicing Commander's Support Staff or Military Personnel Section. Access this system from the AF Portal, www.my.af.mil, under the Top Portal Links section.

Personal weapons policy

No personal weapons of any type, concealed or in plain view, are allowed on property of the S.C. Military Dept. and under the jurisdiction of the SC Adjutant General. Exceptions are members whose job requires them to carry weapons and who have written permission from the TAG.

NCO enhancement seminars

The Chief's Council announces the first NCO Enhancement Seminar, scheduled to occur during October drill at the McCrady Training Center. Sixty-five NCOs will attend the first course for McEntire designed to help in the leadership development of our Airmen.

Golf anyone?

The First Tee is a DoD program that teaches golf and its values to children at no cost. For more information, visit www.thefirsttee.org.

The NGASC Scholarship Foundation Fall 2010 Golf Tournament is Oct. 11 with a 9:30 shotgun start at the Carolina Lakes Golf Course on Shaw AFB. \$50 registration includes cart, greens fees, lunch, prizes and range balls. Call 803-254-8456 or email bhicks@ngasc.org by Oct. 1.

The SCANG golf tournament at the Beech Creek Golf Club in Sumter is Nov. 15. The \$35 fee is due by Oct. 11. Registration is 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 15, with shotgun start at noon. Food will be provided by Big T's Barbeque. Give fees to Allen Stewart, Jason Horne, Dwayne Ayers or Stuart Amos and make checks payable to GAGGO. Payment also can be mailed to: SCANG GAGGO, 1325 South Carolina Road, Suite 4, Eastover, SC 29044.

Barbershop opening soon

The base barbershop will soon be open for business Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Costs will be \$7 for a military cut and \$10 for a style cut.

Strong Bonds retreats

The SCANG Chaplain's Office and Airman & Family Readiness Program will hold two Strong Bonds retreats Sept. 24-26 in Myrtle Beach. The Strong Bonds Single Airmen Retreat focuses on making safe and healthy relationship choices and is open to single Airmen (enlisted and officers) from Guard and Active Associates and costs \$10. The Strong Bonds Marriage Retreat is a couples' retreat to strengthen bonds for a healthy marriage and costs \$20. First priority for both retreats is given to those who have deployed within the last two years. Registration deadline is Sept. 14, and registration forms can be obtained and returned Terry DeLille at Carolyn.delille@ang.af.mil dropped off at Headquarters office, room 117. Forms also can be dropped off at the Chaplain's Office.

August Blood Drive Results
Thank you to all who gave blood
68 Pints were collected
Next Blood Drive is Oct. 3



(Photos by SSgt. Jorge Intriago, 169th FW/PA)
A1C. Kathryn Hammer with the 169th LRS watches a Red Cross employee draw her blood during the on-base blood drive.

Savannah Swamp Fox Ops return soon

It's been quiet in the skies over McEntire lately, but not for much longer as preparations are under way to bring members of the SCANG and its jets home from Savannah.

In mid-July, 17 F-16s were flown to the Combat Readiness Training Center at the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport to clear the 169th Fighter Wing's ramp space for improvements. The anticipated date for the first jet to land on the new surface is Sept. 15.

"We've had tremendous success launching sorties out of the CRTC," said Maj. Matthew "Freq" Casey, the Detachment Commander for the 157th Fighter Squadron. "The pilots have been able to get a lot more flying time down here with up to 16 sorties a day."

At any given time, there are around 100 Fighter Wing personnel on the ground to sustain operations, with additional support personnel from the Georgia, Florida and Alabama Air National Guard.

The CRTC is one of four Air Guard field training sites in the nation with the motto "Our customers are our business." The facility provides airspace and ranges, aircraft parking, maintenance areas, training facilities and dormitories.

To ensure Airmen are able to sustain responsibilities at McEntire or at home, many are operating with an "eight days on and six days home" schedule.

"This just shows the skill and flexibility of the Swamp Foxes," said Brig. Gen. Scott Williams, 169th Fighter Wing commander,



(Photo by MSgt. George Burneds, GACRTC)

Swamp Fox F-16s are parked at Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center during the construction projects on the runway at McEntire

"To be able to relocate to a different base on short notice and operate at full capacity is a tribute to the readiness of our unit."

(Story by Capt. Cindi King, 169th FW/PA)

Starbase summer camp makes learning fun

McEntire held its fourth year of summer camps this July. Two weeks of camps allowed children from Air Guard, Army Guard and Active Duty families to attend. Each camp was four and a half days of science, technology, engineering and mathematics turned into fun activities.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Jim Hiott, Starbase Swamp Fox summer camp director, said, "Starbase summer camps follow the same curriculum as classes taught during the school year, but we include more field trips and experiments to add to the fun. We tried out a few new experiments this summer which will be incorporated into our new curriculum beginning this school year."

Many campers had fun engineering a space vehicle that would keep the occupants safe

upon re-entering the Earth's atmosphere. Students constructed a space vehicle on a simulated budget of \$800. Every piece of material used was given a monetary value. Campers had to implement the engineering design process to define the problem, collect ideas, evaluate, test and re-evaluate the design, then make needed changes. To test the vehicle, an egg, or "Eggstronaut," was secured in the vehicle, and the vehicle was attached to a zip line and crashed into a wall. If the egg did not break, the design was termed successful. The challenge was to build the best design for the least amount of money.

Brig. Gen. (Ret) John "Coach" Motley Starbase Swamp Fox director, said, "Many of the children in our summer camps have parents that work here on base. This is a great way to pay back the National Guard and Active Associate communities here. This camp is a way to say thank you to all the shops and people who have supported the Starbase program throughout the school year.

"One thing we like to focus on with all our students is career goals," Motley said. "We bring in members of the military to discuss numerous career fields. SCANG's own Col. Deane 'D-DAWG' Pennington told of his path in becoming a fighter pilot. Lt. Col. Stephanie Batten discussed the challenges of becoming a helicopter pilot and then a

physician's assistant specializing in pilots and persons who fly regularly. Col. (Ret.) Mason Brooks discussed the opportunities of an engineering career. SrA. Quiota Jones discussed the responsibilities and opportunities in law enforcement."

All campers enjoyed a tour of McEntire including a static display of an F-16 led by Maj. John Wilcox and seeing the helicopters at Army Aviation led by Lt. Col. Jim Barkley. Thursday was a guided tour of the South Carolina Military Museum, a picnic at Fort Jackson, and a visit to Palmetto Falls water park. The last day of Starbase was the day to launch rockets which the campers built earlier in the week and to enjoy some watermelon by the McEntire pond.

"Starbase was awesome. My favorite part was making the rockets and going to the water park," said Savannah Lewter, Starbase camper.



Starbase campers shoot off rockets and learn about land navigation at the Starbase summer camps.



(Photos and story by Staff Sgt. Tracci Dorgan, 169th FW/PA)



SCANG leads missions in Joint Base Balad

In March 2003, during the first night of Operation Iraqi Freedom, F-16s with the 'South Carolina' tail fin were roaring through the Iraqi skies. Now, seven years later, the Swamp Foxes are wrapping up air operations in those same skies.

In May, the wing and its Block 52 F-16 Fighting Falcons stepped forward to make up the 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron for a 120-day AEF to Joint Base Balad in Iraq.

Col. Mike Hudson said, "McEntire's jets were the first to fly for OIF in 2003, and they will be the last unit to fly an OIF mission for the 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron." Hudson is serving as the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group deputy commander while deployed from the 169th Operations Group.

Being the first in and last out are not the Swamp Foxes' only firsts during this 120-day AEF rotation. Thanks to the 169th's Active Association, this deployment marks the first time an entire AEF rotation for an

Air Guard unit has been covered entirely by a single wing.

Lt. Col. Tim Bennett, deployed from the 157th Fighter Squadron, said, "When the 169th proposed the Active Association part of the requirement, our thinking was that we could fill a tasking for the full 120-day AEF rotation and still have the resources available at home station to continue flying and training missions. The added manpower from the Active Association is making this possible right now."

This AEF is the first time the SCANG has deployed with Active Associates to a combat environment, proving the Active Association works at all levels from pilot to maintainer and not just in a training environment.

Bennett said, "We deployed for the full AEF, because we are the only Air Guard unit to fly the Block 50/52 F-16s, which means we don't have any other Air Guard unit to rainbow with."

"All other Air Guard fighter units split an AEF rotation between three units that fly like aircraft."

The 332nd EFS currently is tasked to fly eight Block 52 and four Block 30 F-16s, another mission McEntire was willing to engage. No other unit has been tasked to fly two different types of aircraft in an AEF, a unique challenge for pilots and maintenance personnel.

The 169th sent nearly 40 of its maintenance personnel to Montgomery, Ala., for Block 30 training and has eight F-16 fighter pilots who are dual-qualified to operate both

Block 52 and Block 30 jets, ensuring the flexibility needed to fly a 24-hour operation with either air frame.

The jets look similar, but are very different with regards to engine, avionics and mission. The Block 30 has an additional mission called Tactical Area Reconnaissance System which is another pilot qualification.

Bennett said, "The high quality of the people we have involved here are really what makes the whole operation possible. From top to bottom, they accept nothing but the best from themselves and the organization."

Once the last fighter mission has been flown for the 169th this year, they will begin their part in drawing down at Balad, closing down the fighter squadron that is currently housing their operations.

(Photos and Story by TSgt. Caycee Cook, 169th FW/PA - 332nd EFS Deployed)



McEntire Airmen receive specialized training

Members of the 169th Security Forces and Civil Engineering Squadrons completed training in a Rapid Deployment to Active Shooter and Reaction to Terrorist course taught on base July 26-31 by Special Operations Research and Development (SORD) instructors.

The purpose of this specialized training was to teach skills to engage and defeat an active shooter or terrorist.

The training consisted of different classroom instructions, materials, practical exercises, and reality-based scenarios. Lessons included the handling of the M-4 Carbine and the M-9 Pistol, and tactical formations to engage the threat. The practical exercises took place in the former Headquarters SCANG building.

On the first day of practical exercises, the instructors lead the scenario, and on the second day, the students took the lead.



Airmen participating in the Active Shooter course were also certified as trainers for the unit. After completing the certification they can teach an Active Shooter basic course to other members in the unit.

"We are teaching new styles of shooting techniques, and use of breaching equipment for entry into buildings," said Tim Anglin, an instructor and Lexington County Law Enforcement officer.

Darren Norris, Vice President of SORD said, "The skills that are taught during this class can easily be adjusted to the needs of the mission. We stress the use of common sense, good judgement and good tactics. We go over the training until it is second nature to



SFS and CES members train in real life scenarios.

react as taught."

"We train all personnel to always be actively looking for something to do," added Norris.

The Airmen were taught 26 modules during the training. All the modules were based around three key factors: immediate response, neutralizing the threat and controlling the environment. SORD training is accredited by the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy. Upon completion of this course, each certified individual is awarded continuing education credits.

"The class was a great opportunity to experience training that closely relates to real life situations. The students were allowed to experience what happens when things go wrong in an active shooter situation. This presented a training opportunity in which students could learn from mistakes. No one knows how they will react in such a situation until they taste the fog of war. This was by far the best training I have ever had at McEntire," said SSgt. Jeremy Hunt, 169th Security Forces.

(Photos and Story by Staff Sgt. Tracci Dorgan, 169th FW/PA)

SCANG comm experts trained to support 'first responders'

Four SCANG members now are trained to respond to "domestic events" as members of South Carolina's first Joint Communication Support team.

SMSgt. Greg Stevens and MSgt. Chris Branton (of the 245th Air Traffic Control Squadron) and MSgt. Dough Striff and TSgt. Stephen Wall (of the 169th Communications Flight) will respond alongside Army Guard members in the installation, operation and maintenance of satellite communications equipment to support civilian "first responders." They will help ensure NIPRnet and commercial Internet connectivity via a communication suite that also provides high-tech phone capability, VHF, UHF, HF and 800mhz radio service. Plus, their equipment is capable of re-broadcasting from one radio frequency to another.

The training was conducted by the SC Army National Guard, including two members already assigned to the Joint Incident Site Communication Capability package in Abbeville.

The participating Swamp Foxes (former members of the 240th Combat Communications Squadron) say they are excited about the team's "jointness" and the opportunity to return to the tactical

communications arena. Their training helped refresh skills related to SATCOM, antenna mast setup, network configuration, video teleconferencing and crossbanding. Because the equipment offers such a variety of capabilities to the relatively small team of 7-10 personnel, members have a chance to learn about equipment outside of their routine areas of responsibility.

Striff said, "With this equipment, South Carolina can continue to show the way and be the leader, not only in defending this great nation but also in assisting in times of need on the home front. This shows the military is not just a giant war machine but a humanitarian machine as well.

"My favorite portion of the training was the chance to train in a joint atmosphere with our Army counterparts and the interaction and trading of knowledge and ideas," he said. "That helps us work together as a unit with a common understanding and motivation to perform the job and do it well."

The SCARNG was the first guard unit to receive the JISCC and responded soon after when Hurricane Rita struck Texas.

(Story by Lt. Col. Kim Joye, JFHQ-HQ SCANG)

Air Force celebrates our 63 Birthday -- Sept. 18, 1947

Chaplain, assistant return from Guam deployment

Two Swamp Foxes from McEntire's Chaplain's office recently returned from Guam after deploying for six months. Chaplain (Lt.Col.) David Sturgeon and Chaplain Assistant Staff Sgt. Ben "Rudy" Skelton were TDY at Andersen AFB from January to July where they served the spiritual needs of thousands of Airmen, plus Sailors and Soldiers.

Andersen AFB is the staging point for fighters, bombers, tankers and UAVs performing missions for the U.S. Air Force in the Pacific. Sturgeon and Skelton volunteered to deploy there because of an active duty shortfall in Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants at Andersen AFB. They were primarily assigned to the maintenance area on the flightline. In addition they led chapel services, Bible studies as well as supporting two Operational Readiness Exercises and an Operational Readiness Inspection.

Sturgeon, who deployed to Iraq in 2005, said the major difference in this deployment was that "no one was shooting at us" and the best part was "serving at the Airman's Center and leading Bible studies."

Coincidentally, another Swamp Fox, Staff Sgt. Rahko Diggs, from



(Courtesy Photo by SSgt. Sean Finley)

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Sturgeon and Chaplain Assistant SSgt. Ben "Rudy" Skelton in the chapel at Andersen AFB.

the 169th Maintenance Squadron's AGE shop, was also deployed there at the same time as Sturgeon and Skelton.

Originally their deployment was supposed to be for 120 days. But midway through it was extended and turned into 180 days after they agreed to stay on longer until their replacement team arrived.

For Skelton, a highlight for his first deployment was being coined by the Air Force Chief of Chaplains, Maj. Gen. Cecil Richardson, who was visiting Andersen AFB for the National Prayer Luncheon. Skelton helped with the launch of a new worship service geared toward younger Airmen. "General Richardson attended the service and afterwards said it was wonderful," said Skelton. The most rewarding part of his deployment was working with his civilian employer back home to collect over 600 books for a local elementary school. The Chick-Fil-A in West Columbia mailed

20 boxes of donated books which Skelton then distributed to the Machananao Elementary School whose library was destroyed in a typhoon.

(by Maj. Jim St. Clair, 169th FW/PA)

SCANG recognizes 2009 Employer of the Year

General Dynamics Information Technology, in Grovetown, Georgia, has been selected as the 2009 SCANG Employer of the Year. The company was nominated by MSgt. Douglas Striff of the 169th Communications Flight.

In his nomination narrative, Striff wrote 'the company is dedicated to maintaining support for our nation's Reserve components through a variety of methods. General Dynamics IT provides differential pay and continues employee benefits for the duration of deployment; this includes the annual training requirements.'

General Dynamics Information Technology recently had 103 employees on military leave, 73 of which qualified for some differential pay. The company also provides activated Guard and Reserve employees with a Deployment Preparedness Kit, which contains a comprehensive guide to assist military members with their leave of absence, Striff explained in his narrative.

Striff further wrote 'General Dynamics IT first-line supervisors have received a number of Patriot Awards, thanking them for their support of military-employees. GDIT community relations teams urge employees to support local charities and not-for profit that benefit families of deployed employees.'

"General Dynamics Information Technology has proven to be a model employer to its Guard and Reserve employees," said Brig. Gen. Scott Williams. "The Guard could not train and operate as a viable fighting force without the support of our employers. We certainly appreciate the great lengths this company goes to for its military employees.

"The company not only supports their Guard and Reserve members, but the other employees get involved too. The contributions to our nation's wounded warriors are especially meaningful," Williams added.

In addition to the many company initiatives, GDIT employees also support the military. According to Striff's narrative, recently the 16,000 employees at General Dynamics IT elected to forgo the traditional holiday gift to donate the money for gifts to the Wounded Warrior Project.

The company is also receptive to military members who apply for jobs, giving consideration to the vast experience military members bring into the company.

(Story by Lt.Col. Les Carroll, 169th FW/PA)



MSgt. Doug Striff and Brig. Gen. Scott Williams recognize Striff's employer as the 2009 SCANG Employer of the Year.



ATTENZIONE! (Italian for attention!) We are changing our meetings to the first TUESDAY of the month to provide our folks easier entry into Fort Jackson, which moved their Family Day to Wednesday, and Graduation to Thursday. Since it's bedlam at the gates both days, I understand why they did it, but we would prefer our group not have to you sit in line more than 15 minutes. Therefore it is prudent to change so that the majority of us are not waiting at the gate, hence Tuesday, same time, same place. There are some folks out there that may not see this, so please pass the word on about this change.

The next breakfast will be Sept. 7, 8:30 at the Fort Jackson NCO Club. Subsequent messages and reminders will be sent out to you about this.

We had around 45 folks for the August

breakfast. As always, we had a good breakfast with a "number" of first timers including Art Cavanaugh and Robert Age, from Weapons Loading, Bill Hoefer from Maintenance, and Nathan Lindler. Randy Coleman also came all the way from Fort Motte, although he is not a "designated" first timer, it was his first time at the NCO Club. It was a pleasure to have them all come by, as well as the "Corps" group.

Personally, I have found Fort Jackson to be very accomodating to Air Guard Retirees. So I would encourage you to use the services they provide us - you earned it. If you have a problem with their service, please let me know, since I also sit on the Fort Jackson Retirees Council.

Honoring the 1998 retirees: Lt. Col. Joe A. Camp, Jr., Maj. Charles D. Meyer, CMSgt.

Samuel Ezell, SMSgt.'s Lewis Coleman and Roy D. McMickell, MSgt.'s Doris J. Luellen, Joe W. Stickland, James W. Frankum, Jr., Herbert Clark, Aaron R. Smith, Gibson D. Waters, Jr., Charles S. Frost, and Robert L. Johnson, and SSgt. William Jeffcoat.

I appreciate receiving phone calls from different folks stating their retirement date. So even if I have your information it is good to "verify" it. Recently I found that I did not have any retirement information on John T. Bowie (Jim). I also have come to realize, even being OC (obsessive/complusive) that I will never get every member that has retired, but I will darn sure try. Again, we are moving our meetings to Tuesday, same time and place. Hope to see you Sept. 7.

Get Involved, join the NCOAGA -- celebrating 40 Years

Sept. 9, 1970, the enlisted force of the SCANG adopted and established the NCO Academy Graduates Association, Chapter 19. Since then, the members of the NCOAGA have consistently promoted enlisted development through Professional Military Education with a residence emphasis and worked to instill pride and esprit de corps through our core values, military customs and traditions, and community involvement.

One of the most notable accomplishments of the association was the SCANG Memorial Monument, dedicated March 3, 1985. The monument is in front of the Wing headquarters building and it is inscribed with the names of SCANG members who have died since 1946. Another 35 names were added to the monument before July UTA. I would like to say "Thank You" to the following members the Student Flight that participated in our memorial and F-16 static clean-up during July: A1Cs Joshua McMillian, Lucas Mastrangelo, Steadman DeMarco, Jamie Thompson, Casey Gray, Jason Digiaco, Kyle Ranville, Xavier Galloway and Christopher Harrison. I would also like to recognize MSgt. Tony Barfield and MSgt. John Jones for organizing the

clean-up effort.

Last year's active membership was 40 Airmen. With the mentorship of CMSgt. Mark Morrell and the drive of SMSgt. Kevin Thomas, we set out to strengthen this organization. We are currently 89 members strong due to the recruitment persistence of Thomas. He was recognized July 23, at the NCOAGA National Seminar 42 in Sioux Falls, S.D. and awarded the 2010 Region 4 Directors Award for his outstanding recruitment. His efforts also led to our chapter receiving the 2010 Award of Excellence for 100% membership increase! Great job members!

To keep the tradition alive by honoring our past members, and to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the NCOAGA, we will be conducting a membership drive and accepting donations for the memorial at the Aerospace Dining Facility during Sept. UTA. During Oct. UTA, we will continue our SCANG Memorial fundraiser by selling Chrysanthemums for \$12 and \$14. To pre order your "Mums" please contact SMSgt. Robert Wright or MSgt. Tony Barfield at 647-8231. There will be a General Meeting Sept. 11 at 3:00 p.m. in the hangar classroom

to elect new board members. All active NCOAGA members please make time to attend this election. Get involved today, join the NCOAGA!

"Sacrifice is what each generation must bear for freedom. Freedom is not a right, but a privilege; a privilege for those who are willing to fight for it." Adjutant General T. Eston Marchant—quote made during dedication ceremony 3 March 1985.

(Story by SMSgt. Robert Wright, 169th OPS)



(Photo by TSgt. Stephen Hudson, 169th FW/PA)

Airmen from the 169th Fighter Wing complete a landscaping beautification project with the local NCO Academy Graduates Association.

Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15 - Oct. 15

Sept. 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence for several Latin American countries. Other countries gained their independence later in Sept.

MOVIN' In, MOVIN' Up, & MOVIN' On

Officer Promotions

Lieutenant Colonel

Karl S. Bowers, Jr., 169th FW

Enlisted Promotions

Senior Master Sergeant

Kevin S. Thomas, 169th FW

Staff Sergeant

Cory J. Perun, 169th AMXS
Tara S. Washington, 169th OSF

Senior Airman

Charles E. Dunlap, Jr., 169th SFS
Samuel L. Hardin, Jr., 169th AMXS
Cody W. Keefe, 169th OSF
Danny M. Kinard, 169th SFS
Ashley A. Logan, 169th AMXS

Enlistments

TSgt. Maurlen Whitaker, 169th FSS
SSgt. Alexandra Chappell, 169th MXS
SrA. Katherine E. Harper, 169th CF
SrA. Timothy Huber, 169th AMXS
A1C. William Dimsdale, 169th CES
A1C. Benjamin Paysinger, 169th MXS
A1C. Donovan Mackessy, 169th MXS
A1C. Jesse Z. Childress, 169th MXS
A1C. Primas Grandison, 169th LRS
A1C. Christina Thilges, 169th MXS
A1C. Jesse V. Summerlin, 169th MXS

Retirements

Maj. Gen. Timothy R. Rush
JFHQ- SCANG
35+ Years

CMSgt. Susan Naylor
169th MDG
32+ Years

SMSgt. Floyd Taylor
169th MXS
38+ Years

SCANG Schedule

February 2011 (UTA)

Unit Compliance Inspection

SCANG Recruiters 1-800-432-2754
187-SWAMPFOX www.goang.com

McEntire JNGB

MSgt. Brad Gibson

Recruiting & Retention
Superintendent
(803) 647-8414
BB: (803) 315-7419

MSgt. Ceomara Timmons

Retention Office Manager
Palace Chase/Palace Front
and Guard Transfers
(803) 647-8211

Shaw AFB

TSgt. Steve David

(803) 895-4790
BB: (803) 608-3098

Village at Sandhills

TSgt. Brian Bailes

(803) 462-0455
BB: (803) 315-7482

TSgt. Topeka Blackwell

(803) 462-0455
BB: (803) 351-0939

TSgt. Chris Sewell

803-462-0455
BB: (803) 206-2499

Charleston AFB

SSgt. James Rodriguez

(803) 647-8085
BB: (803) 391-6348

Base Training

Airman Leadership School
(class start dates -- five-week duration)
(56 seats for ANG members)

2010

TBA

Noncommissioned Officers Academy
(class start dates -- six-week duration)
(75 seats for ANG members)

PME Schedule

MCGHEE TYSON ALS

10 Jan 11 - 10 Feb 11
21 Feb 11 - 24 Mar 11
11 Apr 11 - 12 May 11
27 Jun 11 - 28 Jul 11
15 Aug 11 - 15 Sep 11
27 Sep 11 - 28 Oct 11

MCGHEE TYSON NCOA

4 Jan - 10 Feb 11
21 Feb 11 - 30 Mar 11
11 Apr 11 - 18 May 11
27 Jun 11 - 3 Aug 11
15 Aug 11 - 21 Sep 11
27 Sep 11 - 3 Nov 11

TESTING SCHEDULE

Tuesdays, 1 p.m.

Drill Sundays, 12:30 p.m.

Report for testing no later than 15 minutes before the test. Members testing on CDCs required for upgrade training must bring their AFIADL 9 course card with the following items documented:

Date review training began
Date due completion
Date review training ended
Supervisor's signature
Trainee's signature

Members without the card and required information are not allowed to test. For more information, contact a unit training manager.



REFLECTIONS

In a busy world, sometimes it is hard to spend time with family, much less friends and work associates. Careers can be demanding when even finding time for yourself can be challenging. The older I get, I've come to see the most important things in life are relationships. First of all, a relationship with God, then people. Everybody should have at least three close friends, someone to advise you, someone to walk along side of to mutually support and someone you can mentor along life's path. These three relationships can strengthen bonds with family members. But more importantly, they can aid in a healthy relationship with the LORD, which is the most important relationship in life. The bible says there is a friend that sticks closer then a brother. Make time to get to know God. He wants to get to know you.

Chaplain David H. Sturgeon



Worship Schedule Saturday

Maintenance (hangar) & SFS after roll call

Sunday

8 - 8:30 a.m. - "Chapel Now" (WG HQ auditorium)

10:30-10:55 a.m. - "Chapel Next" (Dining Facility)

1:30-2 p.m. - Catholic Mass

in the LRS conference room (Father Travis)

What's for Lunch?

Saturday

Pepper Steak, Breaded Chicken Strips,
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Steamed
Cabbage, Mixed Vegetables

Snack Line

Taco, Burritos; beef and beans, Chips

Sunday

Chicken Cordon Bleu, Pork Tender Loin,
Rice and Gravy, Green Beans, Cut Corn

Snack Line

Teriyaki Wings, Baked Beans, Fries

The Dining Facility is open 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Everyone using the facility must present a valid ID card.

Top Achievers

Honor Student

A1C. Benjamin Douglass

169th Civil Engineer Squadron

Structural Apprentice Course

Distinguished Graduate

TSgt. Elizabeth Sailer

157th Fighter Squadron

Knowledge Operations Management Course

A1C. Daniel Crowe

169th Maintenance Squadron

Aircraft Structural Maintenance Apprentice Course

A1C. Daniel Whitehouse

169th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Electronic Principles Course

90 Percent or Higher

SSgt. Jessica Stamm

169th Maintenance Squadron

Aircraft Hydraulic System Craftsman

South Carolina ANG
McEntire Joint National Guard Base
1325 South Carolina Road
Eastover, SC 29044-5010

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TO THE FAMILY OF: